Losses to NAA due to fire

274. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crores of rupees of losses were sustained by NAA due to fire at the Terminal 2 for Domestic Departures in New Delhi;

(b) whether the cause of this fire been identified;

(c) if so, who is responsible for this negligence; and

(d) what action has been taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Fire broke out in Terminal 1A and not Terminal 2.

(b) The cause of the fire could not be specifically established. The Enquiry report states that it is difficult to establish the cause of the out-break of fire in the area above the false ceiling since the damage is so extensive that the entire building has literally collapsed in the shortest possible time because of the steel strcucture and most of the contents of the building have been consumed in the fire.

(c) The Enquiry Report has not attributed negligence to anyone.

(d) No disciplinary action is contemplated against any individual. However, action has been intiated to review and streamline the fire fighting and associated systems at all airports to take preventive action to guard against such fire accidents.

Posts reserved for SCs/STs

275. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are lying vacant in the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the last five years;

(b) if so, full details thereof, category-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by when the backing for the posts reserved for SCs\STs are likely to be filled up by Governmnet?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) 94 Group-A, 30 Group-B, 48 Group-C and 21 Group-D posts in respect of Scheduled Castes and 103 Group-A, 51 Group-B, 78 Group-C and 35 Group-D posts in respect of Scheduled Tribes are lying vacant till date. Majority of the posts lying vacant are in highly skilled categories; Either suitable candidates are not available or/and some times the candidates do not join.

(c) Special Recruitment Drives have been launched to clear the backlog vacancies and it is expected to fill-up the vacant posts to the extent possible.

Review of the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) Price

276. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Miniser of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed review of the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price; if so, the details of the decision taken; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) and (b) A proposal for lowering of administered price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for domestic operations has been deferred by the Government.

Introduction of new flights between India and Gulf countries

277. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether new flights are proposed to be introduced between India and Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals in this regard in 1996-97 and 1997-98 financial years and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Air India and Indian Airlines have introduced 11 new flights on Gulf sectors during the year 1996-97. Further augmentation of flights would depend upon the market requirements, which are constantly monitored by the airlines through traffic surveys.

Indian Airlines pilots agitation

278. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Indian Airlines pilots indulged in an agitation only for a couple of demands;

(b) whether their demands have been met; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any pilot has been penalised for resorting to the agitation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Commercial Pilots Association had signed a settlement on 26.1.96 which is valid till 31.12.98. The Association raised certain issues which are aleady covered in the settlement dated 26.1.96 and cannot be re-opened during the currency of the settlement.

(c) and (d) Disciplinary action under the Standing Orders has been initiated against seven pilots who had refused to operate flights.

New Policy to define the role of non-resident

279. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) have Government worked out a new policy defining the role of non-resident and foreign investment in the Civil Aviation Sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The modalities for permitting foreign equity and NRI equity participation in domestic air transport services sector are under formulation.

Growth of pasenger Traffic

280. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Miniter of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth of passenger traffic has not grown by 10-12% as predicted; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORAMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The domestic passengers carried during the year 1995 and 1996 were 119.75 and 119.07 lakhs respectively. Additional capacity is now being sanctioned to other arilines/new operators to ensure that the passenger traffic growth is not restricted due to shortage of available capacity.

Representations by small companies against the levy of high charges by NAA

281. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many representations have been received from companies using smaller commercial aircraft to reduce high charges being levied by National Airport Authority;

(b) if so, the details of such representations;

(d) whether Government have initiated any dialogue with the small companies to find a proper and administratively suitable price for services of NAA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?